

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 05209 061951Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 5209

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: AMBASSADOR CONFERS WITH GENERAL VIOLA

REF: BUENOS AIRES 5169

1. AS NOTED REFTTEL, I MET WITH GENERAL VIOLA AT HIS OFFICE AT 18:00. NO ONE ELSE WAS PRESENT. HE HAD JUST MET WITH ABOUT TEN VISITING PERUVIAN ARMY OFFICERS. DESPITE THE LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME HE HAD AVAILABLE, HE HAD MADE SPECIAL EFFORTS TO SEE THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR.

2. VIOLA EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE RESULTS OF FOREIGN MINISTER MONTES' VISIT TO WASHINGTON AS WELL AS THE MEETINGS MONTES' SUBORDINATES HAD WITH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. HE SAID BLUNTLY MATTERS HADN'T GONE WELL WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S TRIP. HE INQUIRED IF I HAD ANY FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRIP. I EXPLAINED THAT I WAS NOT FULLY FAMILIAR WITH THE FACTS AND IT WAS BEST HE GET DETAILED ANSWERS FROM HIS FOREIGN MINISTER.

3. I TOLD VIOLA I HAD MET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER EARLY WEDNESDAY, JULY 5. I SUGGESTED TO VIOLA THAT I HAD THE IMPRESSION OF AN APPARENT LACK OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND PRESIDENT VIDELA AND HIMSELF. I

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INFORMED HIM THAT MY CONCLUSION WAS BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH ME APPARENTLY WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE DETAILS OF THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SECRETARY NEWSOM AND VIDELA. VIOLA AGREED WITH MY ASSESSMENT AND STATED THAT THE REASON WAS OBVIOUS. IT WAS EQUALLY OBVIOUS THAT VIDELA AND VIOLA WERE NOT AWARE OF THE DETAILS OF THE MONTES-ALLARA PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH

EITHER THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR IAHC.

COMMENT: THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS NAVY ORIENTED WITH ADM. MASSERA INDIRECTLY HAVING A STRONG INPUT INTO THE MINISTRY. VIDELA, VIOLA AND THE ARMY IN GENERAL HAVE A STRONG DISTRUST FOR THE NAVY AND THUS HAVE NOT MADE FOREIGN MINISTER MONTES OR SUB-SECRETARY ALLARA PRIVY TO DETAILS OF MY POLICY DEALINGS WITH VIDELA OR VIOLA. THIS IS AN INTERNAL COMMUNICATION PROBLEM WITH TWO GOA AGENCIES AND WE MUST EXERCISE DILIGENT CARE IN ORDER NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN WHAT AMOUNTS TO AN IN-FAMILY DISPUTE. END COMMENT.

4. VIOLA MADE IT CLEAR TO ME HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA THE QUESTION OF IAHC VISIT TO ARGENTINA. HE WAS MOST EMPHATIC IN LETTING ME KNOW THAT HIS COMMENTS WERE COMING DIRECTLY FROM PRESIDENT VIDELA. VIOLA SAID VIDELA TOOK POSITION THAT WHETHER IAHC CAME TO ARGENTINA OR NOT SOME TYPE OF HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT WOULD BE SUBMITTED ON ARGENTINA BY IAHC OR SOME OTHER AGENCY. HE SAID THAT IN ALL PROBABILITY SUCH A REPORT WOULD BE ILL FOUNDED AND NOT FACTUAL - JUST LIKE MEDIA REPORTS OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS ON ARGENTINA'S HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS WHICH CONTINUE TO BE PRINTED ABROAD. (THEY BELIEVE (VIDELA-VIOLA) THAT IT IS PREFERABLE FOR IAHC TO COME TO ARGENTINA. ITS REPORT MIGHT THEN BE FACTUAL AND INPUT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING FROM THE GOA.

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5. WITH AN EMPHATIC GESTURE, VIOLA REQUESTED THAT I INFORM THE USG THAT EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO HAVE IAHC VISIT ARGENTINA. VIOLA REVIEWED THE SEVEN QUESTIONS PROPOUNDED BY IAHC TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER. HE SAID AT LEAST TWO OR THREE OF THOSE QUESTIONS COULD BE ANSWERED NOW. HE SAID THAT QUESTIONS DEALING WITH FURNISHING OF DOCUMENTATION OR MATERIAL RELATING TO IAHC PREPARATION OF ITS REPORT REQUIRED STUDY. HE MADE IT CLEAR GOA WANTED TO COOPERATE BUT NEEDED CLARIFICATION BEFORE ANSWERING SOME OF THOSE QUESTIONS.

6. "TEMPUS FUGIT" WAS STRESSED BY ME. I REMINDED VIOLA OF THE MAGIC DATE OF OCTOBER 1 (HUMPHREY/KENNEDY BILL). I SUGGESTED THAT AN IMMEDIATE DIALOGUE SHOULD ENSUE WITH IAHC. ANSWERS TO THOSE QUESTIONS NOT REQUIRING ANY STUDY OR FURTHER DIALOGUE SHOULD BE SENT ASAP. IMMEDIATE CLARIFICATION SHOULD BE SOUGHT ON AMBIGUOUS QUESTIONS. I ONCE AGAIN REMINDED VIOLA OF IMPORTANCE OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE GOA INVITATION BY IAHC AND ITS RELATION WITH MILITARY TRAINING. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD PROBLEM WELL AND WOULD BE AGAIN DISCUSSING MATTER WITH PRESIDENT, WHO

WOULD GIVE FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

7. VIOLA WISHED ME WELL ON MY TRIP. HE REPEATED HE WAS CERTAIN IAHRC WOULD COME TO ARGENTINA. HIS ONLY COMPLAINT WAS DEPARTMENT'S VISIT WITH OSCAR ALENDE, DESCRIBING HIM AS A NON-GRATA ARGENTINE.

8. AS I WAS READY TO DEPART, I INQUIRED OF VIOLA STATUS OF LILLIANA DEUTSCH, A HIGH CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST CASE. HE REPLIED LILLIANA IS GOING TO BE RELEASED SOON. HE THEN NEEDLED ME BY SAYING THAT EVERY TIME I CONFER WITH HIM I ALWAYS MAKE A PLEA FOR A HIGH INTEREST CASE. HE CONTINUED SAYING THAT THE FOLLOWING HIGH INTEREST PERSONS HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM PRISON: JACOBO TIMMERMAN, VOGLERS, DEUTSCH, SECRET

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ESQUIVEL, BRAVO, SEVILLA. HE ALSO REMINDED ME OF MY CONSTANT REQUESTS FOR RATIFICATION OF TLATELOLCO. HE CHIDED ME FOR SAYING THAT IF THESE HIGH INTEREST CASES WERE RESOLVED AND TLATELOLCO RATIFIED THEN THESE GOA ACTIONS WOULD BE CONSIDERED POSITIVE PROGRESS. NOW THAT THIS HAD OCCURRED, HE SAID, WE ARE TOLD THIS IS MODEST PROGRESS. HE SARCASTICALLY STATED THAT OUR REWARD IS SOME SAFETY ITEMS. COMMENT: VIOLA DID NOT REFLECT THE GLOOM PORTRAYED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND HIS SUBORDINATES EARLIER IN THE DAY. TO THE CONTRARY, VIOLA SOUNDED OPTIMISTIC AND FELT A SOLUTION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. AT NOON YESTERDAY (WED) GENERAL VIOLA DECORATED LT. COL. BOHACH, A MEMBER OF THIS EMBASSY'S DAO. HE ALSO GAVE A RECEPTION FOR BOHACH AT HIS HEADQUARTERS. THIS CEREMONY OBVIOUSLY PLEASED VIOLA AND HAS HELPED DISPEL ANY FEELING OF POSSIBLE ANIMOSITY TOWARDS USG. CASTRO

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